

EXHIBIT A

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS TO INDICATE CHANGES

1. (Currently Amended) A shock- and vibration-absorbing system comprising:

a first plate assembly attachable to a first structure;

a second plate assembly attachable to a second structure, and

a plurality of cavernous members of an elastic material;

wherein the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly together form at least one cavity having an initial volume in which the plurality of cavernous members are arranged;

wherein, after attachment of the first plate assembly to the first structure and the second plate assembly to the second structure, shock and vibration passing between the first structure and the second structure, cause the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly to move relative to each other to reduce the initial volume of the at least one cavity so as to compress the plurality of cavernous members;

wherein compressing the plurality of cavernous members exerts pressure against the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly so as to absorb the shock and vibration; and

[wherein the system operates to absorb shocks and vibrations directed inward to or outward from a surface or edge of the first or second structures] wherein the system operates to absorb shocks and vibrations which cause the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly to move either closer together or farther apart from each other.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of attenuating shock and vibration between a first structure and a second structure, the method comprising the following steps:

bringing a first plate assembly and a second plate assembly together to form at least one cavity having an initial volume;

arranging a plurality of cavernous members of an elastic material in the at least one cavity;

uniting the first plate assembly and the first structure;

uniting the second plate assembly and the second structure; and

allowing shock and vibration to cause the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly to move relative to each other to reduce the initial volume of the at least one cavity so as to compress the plurality of cavernous members;

wherein compressing the plurality of cavernous members exerts pressure against the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly so as to absorb the shock and vibration; and

[wherein the method operates to attenuate shocks and vibrations directed inward to or outward from a surface or edge of the first or second structures] **wherein the system operates to absorb shocks and vibrations which cause the first plate assembly and the second plate assembly to move either closer together or farther apart from each other.**

28. (Amended) A shock- and vibration-absorbing system comprising:

a first support device,

a second support device movably juxtaposed to the first support device, and

at least one elastic member;

wherein the first support device and the second support device together form at least one cavity having an initial volume in which the at least one elastic member is arranged, and wherein movement of the second support device relative to the first support device causes the at least one cavity to have a compressed volume less than the initial volume; and

[wherein the system operates to absorb shocks and vibrations directed inward to or outward from a surface or edge of the first or second structures] **wherein the system operates to absorb shocks and vibrations which cause the first support device and the second support device to move either closer together or farther apart from each other.**

29. (Currently Amended) A shock- and vibration-absorbing system comprising:

a first containment means,

a second containment means movably juxtaposed to the first containment means and complementing the first containment means, and

a compressible medium;

wherein the first containment means and the second containment means together form at least one contained cavity having an initial volume in which the compressible medium exists, and wherein movement of the second containment means relative to the first containment means causes the at least one contained cavity to have a compressed volume less than the initial volume; and

[wherein the system operates to absorb shocks and vibrations directed inward to or outward from a surface or edge of the first or second containment means] **wherein the system operates to absorb shocks and vibrations which cause the first containment means and the second containment means to move either closer together or farther apart from each other.**

31. (Currently Amended) A method of attenuating shock and/or vibration between a first structure and a second structure, the method comprising:

forming at least one cavity having an initial volume by combining a first support device and a second support device so that the first support device and the second support device may move with respect to each other to reduce the initial volume of the at least one cavity;

arranging at least one elastic member in the at least one cavity;

attaching the first support device to the first structure; and

attaching the second support device to the second support structure;

[wherein the method operates to attenuate shocks and/or vibrations directed inward to or outward from a surface or edge of the first or second structures] **wherein the system operates to absorb**

shocks and vibrations which cause the first support device and the second support device to move either closer together or farther apart from each other.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of attenuating shock and/or vibration between a first structure and a second structure, the method having a response to an inward force of a given magnitude equivalent to the response to an outward force of the given magnitude, the method comprising:

forming at least one cavity having an initial volume by combining a first containment means and a second containment means so that the first containment means and the second containment means may move with respect to each other to reduce the initial volume of the at least one cavity;

arranging a compressible medium in the at least one cavity;

attaching the first containment means to the first structure; and

attaching the second containment means to the second support structure;

[wherein the method operates to attenuate shocks and/or vibrations directed inward to or outward from a surface or edge of the first or second structures] wherein the system operates to absorb shocks and vibrations which cause the first containment means and the second containment means to move either closer together or farther apart from each other.